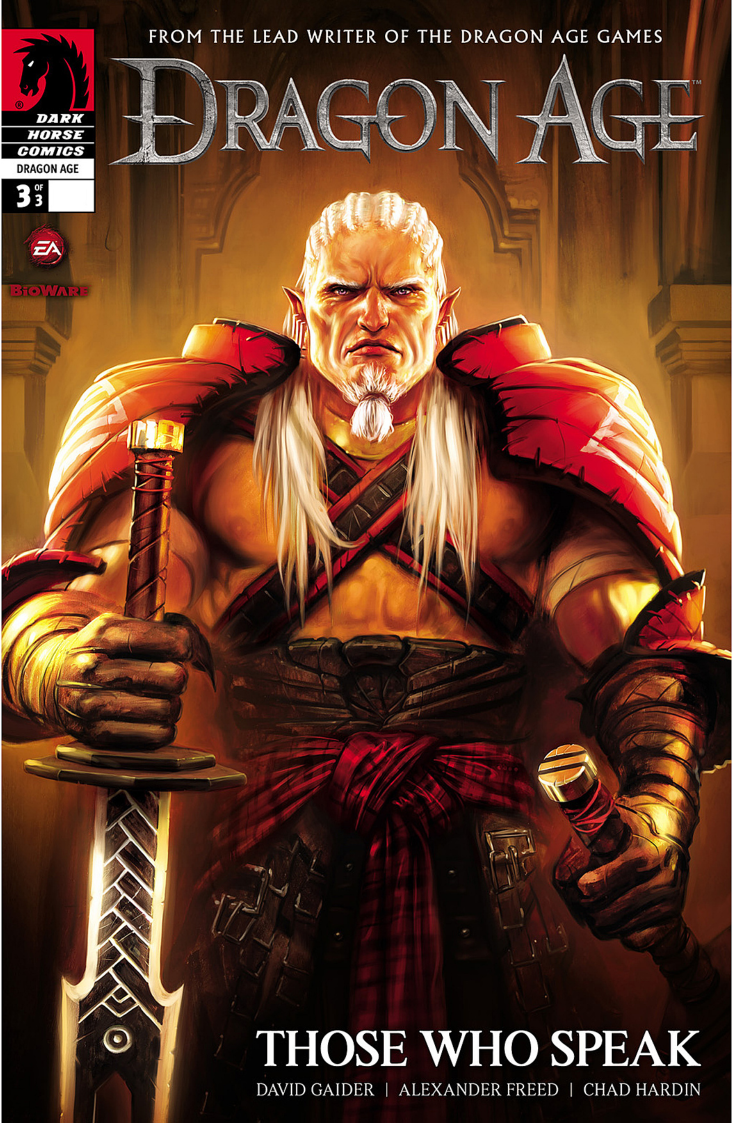

DARK HORSE COMICS
DRAGON AGE
3 OF 3
EA
BIOWARE

FROM THE LEAD WRITER OF THE DRAGON AGE GAMES

DRAGON AGE™

THOSE WHO SPEAK

DAVID GAIDER | ALEXANDER FREED | CHAD HARDIN

DRAGON AGE™

THOSE WHO SPEAK

Part 3 of 3

King Alistair of Ferelden, accompanied by the notorious pirate Isabela and the dwarven businessman Varric Tethras, has embarked upon a mission to defeat the blood mage Aurelian Titus. But the journey has been difficult: while pursuing Titus aboard Isabela's ship, the trio was captured by Qunari—powerful religious zealots dedicated to converting or destroying all nonbelievers.

Even as King Alistair and Varric are confined in relative comfort by Alistair's former ally—the Qunari Sten—Isabela is chosen for forced conversion for her past crimes against the Qunari people. After nearly breaking during a lengthy interrogation, she must now make her escape, or die trying . . .

* * *

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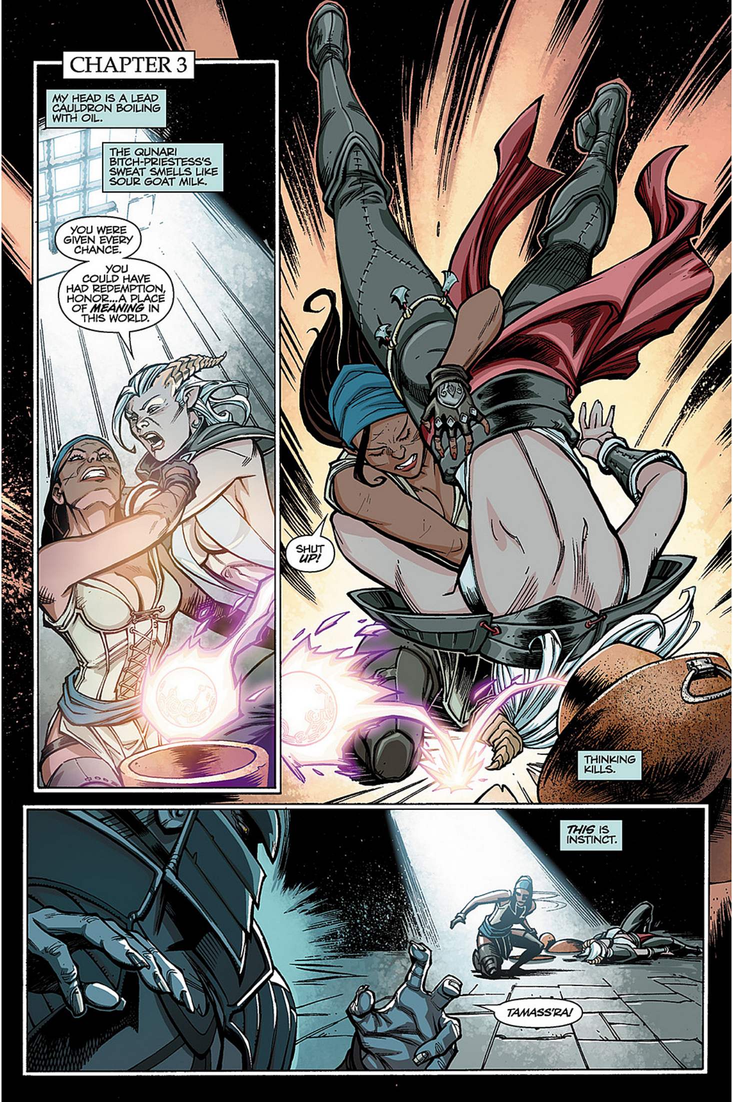
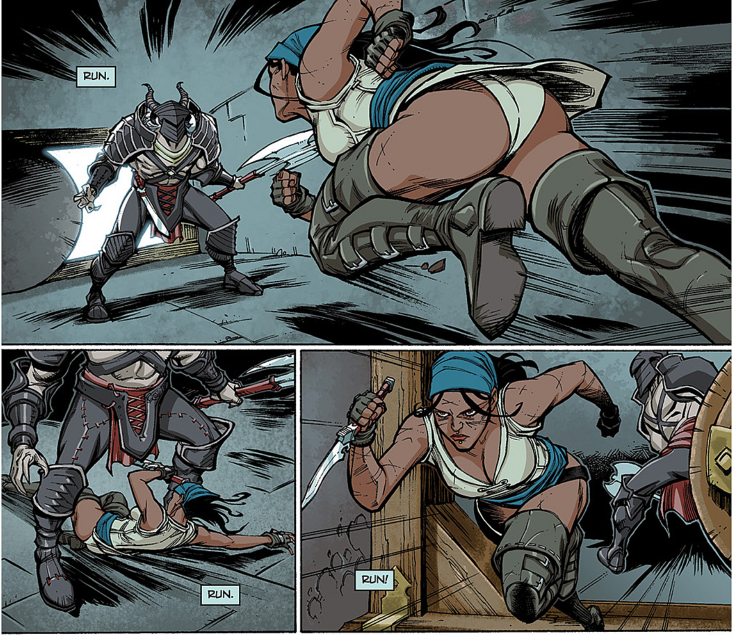
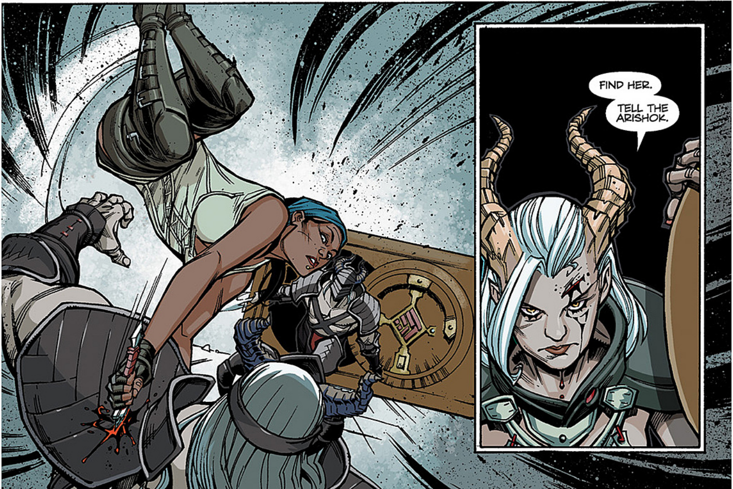
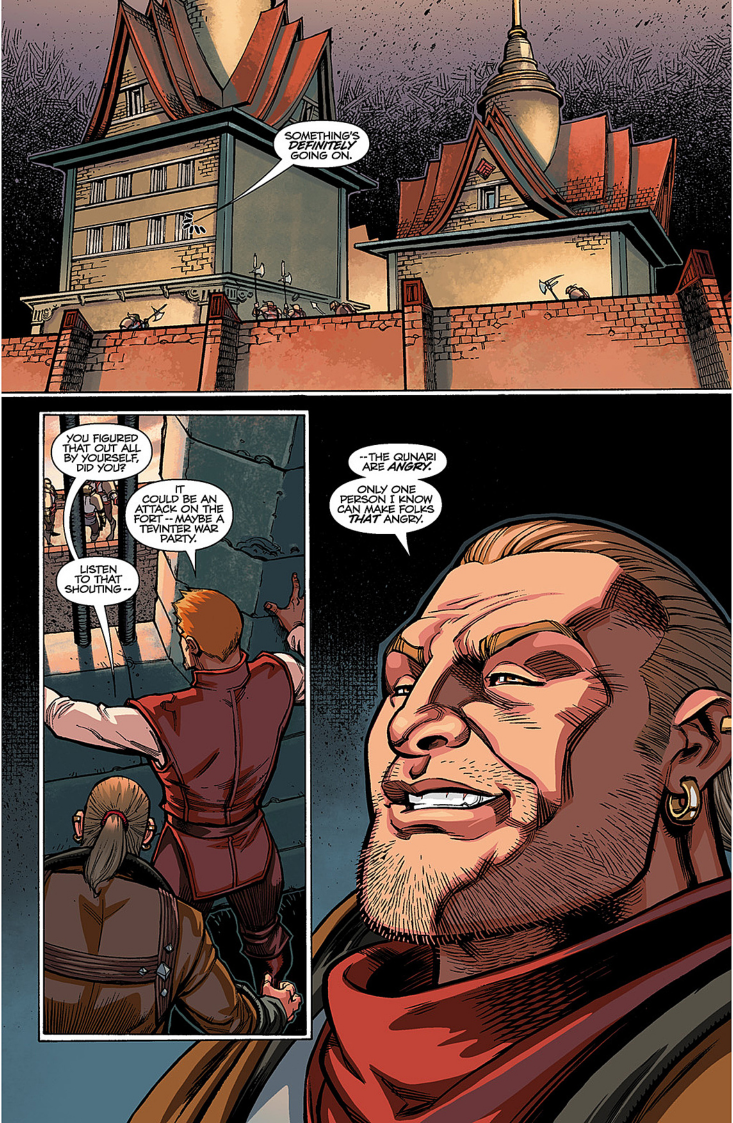
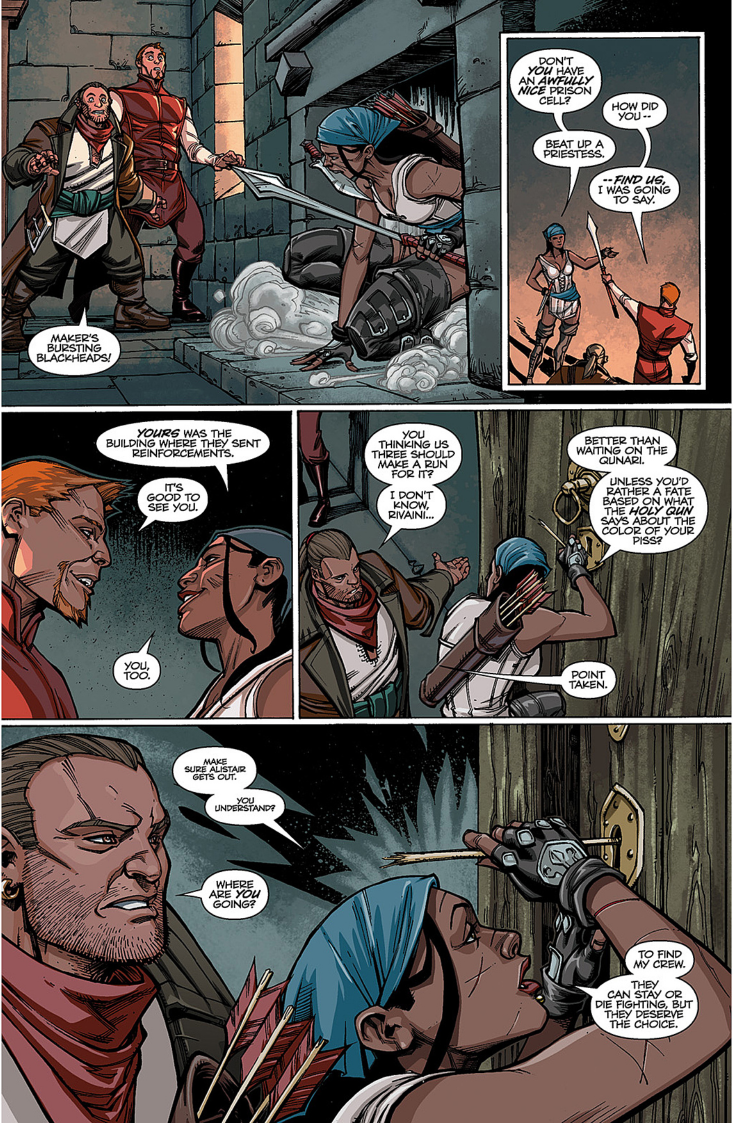
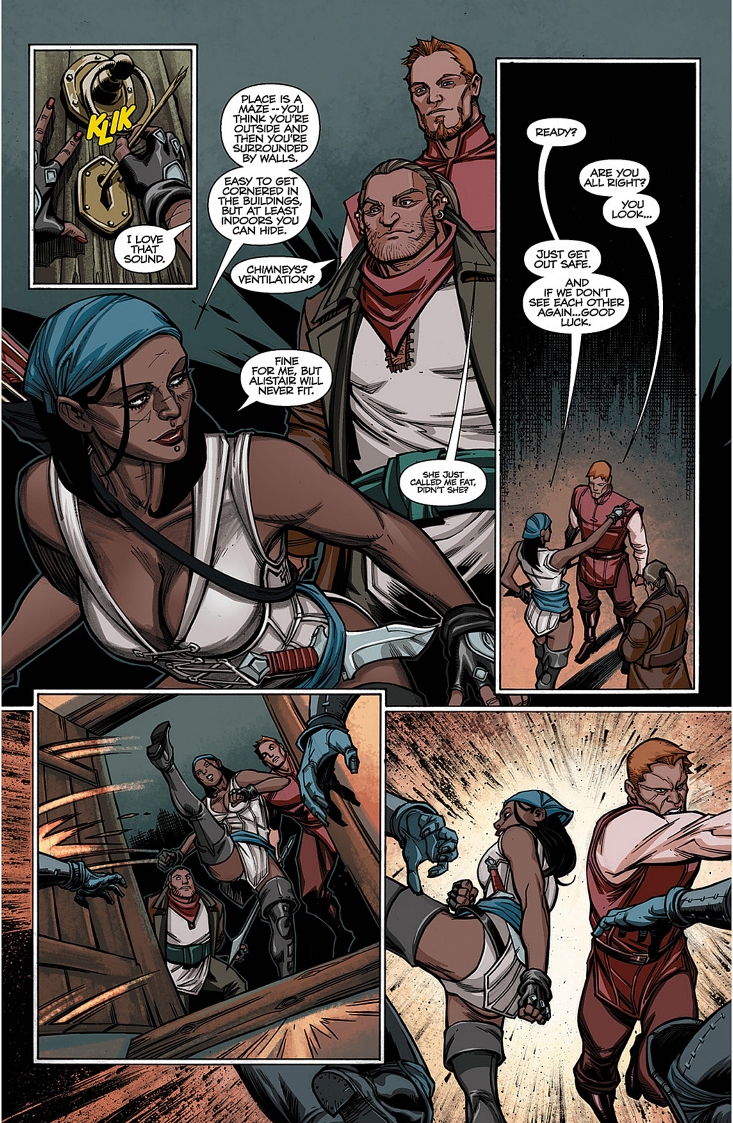

CHAPTER 3
MY HEAD IS A LEAD CAULDRON BOILING WITH OIL.
THE QUNARI BITCH-PRIESTESS'S SWEAT SMELLS LIKE SOUR GOAT MILK.
YOU WERE GIVEN EVERY CHANCE.
YOU COULD HAVE HAD REDEMPTION, HONOR...A PLACE OF *MEANING* IN THIS WORLD.
SHUT *UP!*
THINKING KILLS.
THIS IS INSTINCT.
TAMASS'RA!

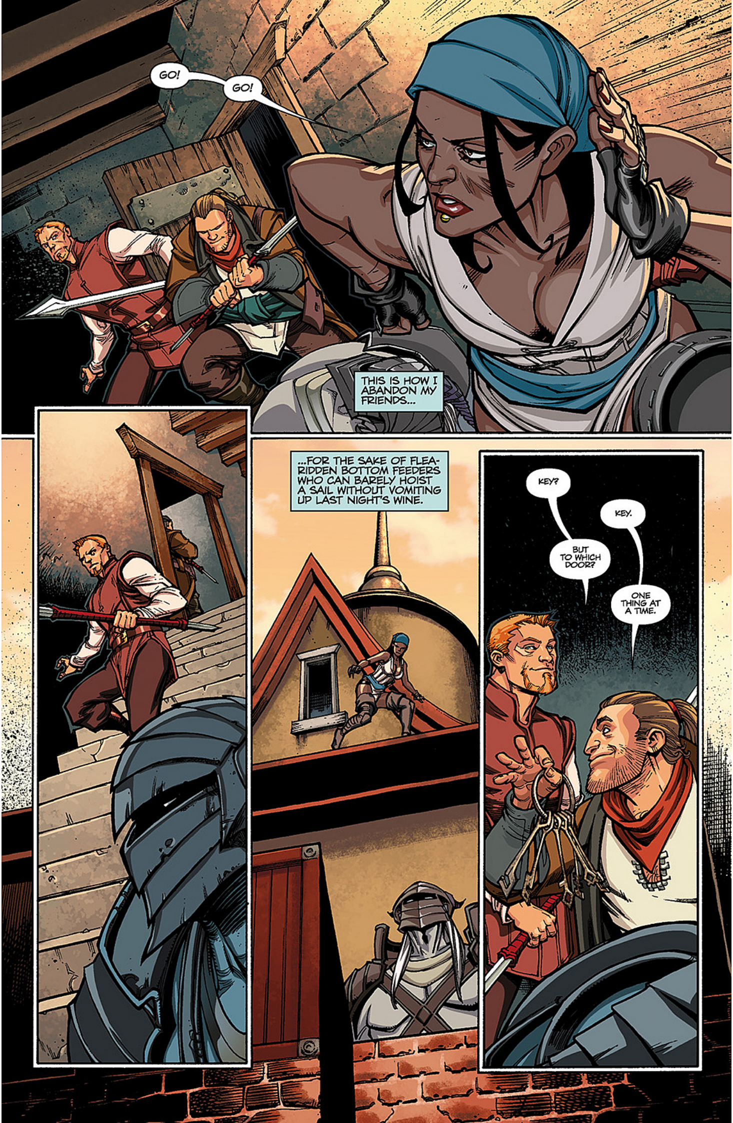

RUN.
RUN.
RUN!

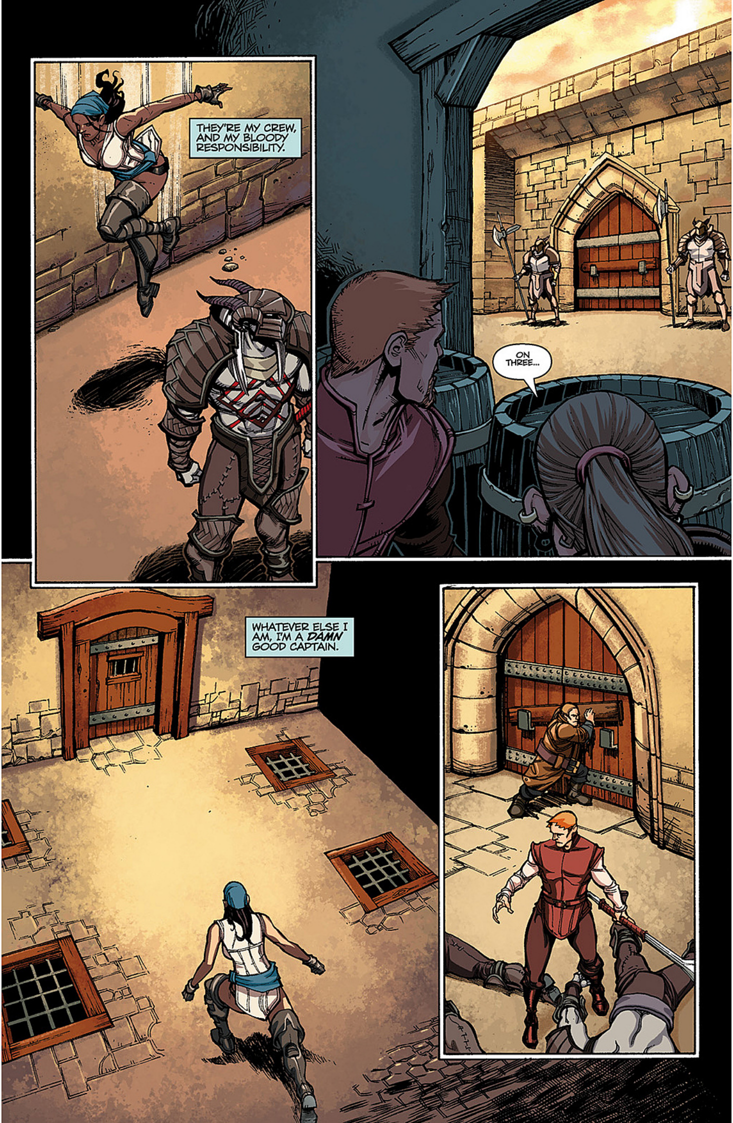

FIND HER.
TELL THE ARISHOK.

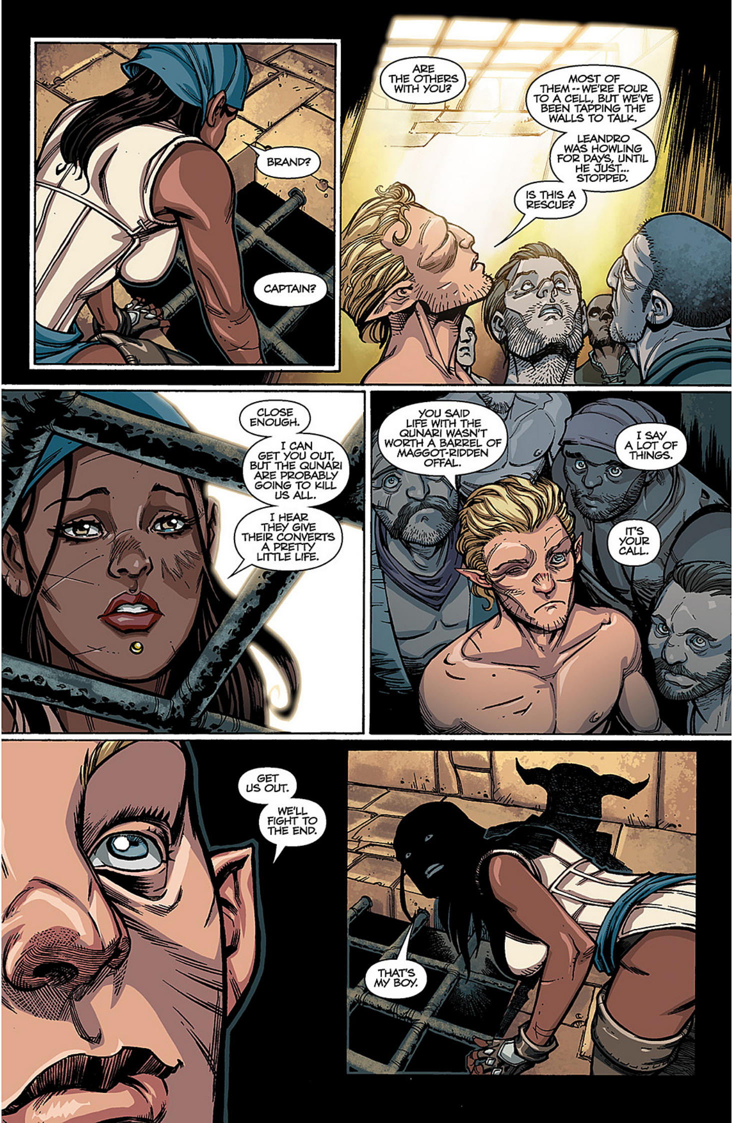

SOMETHING'S *DEFINITELY* GOING ON.
YOU FIGURED THAT OUT ALL BY YOURSELF, DID YOU?
IT COULD BE AN ATTACK ON THE FORT -- MAYBE A TEVINTER WAR PARTY.
LISTEN TO THAT SHOUTING --
--THE QUNARI ARE *ANGRY.*
ONLY ONE PERSON I KNOW CAN MAKE FOLKS *THAT* ANGRY.

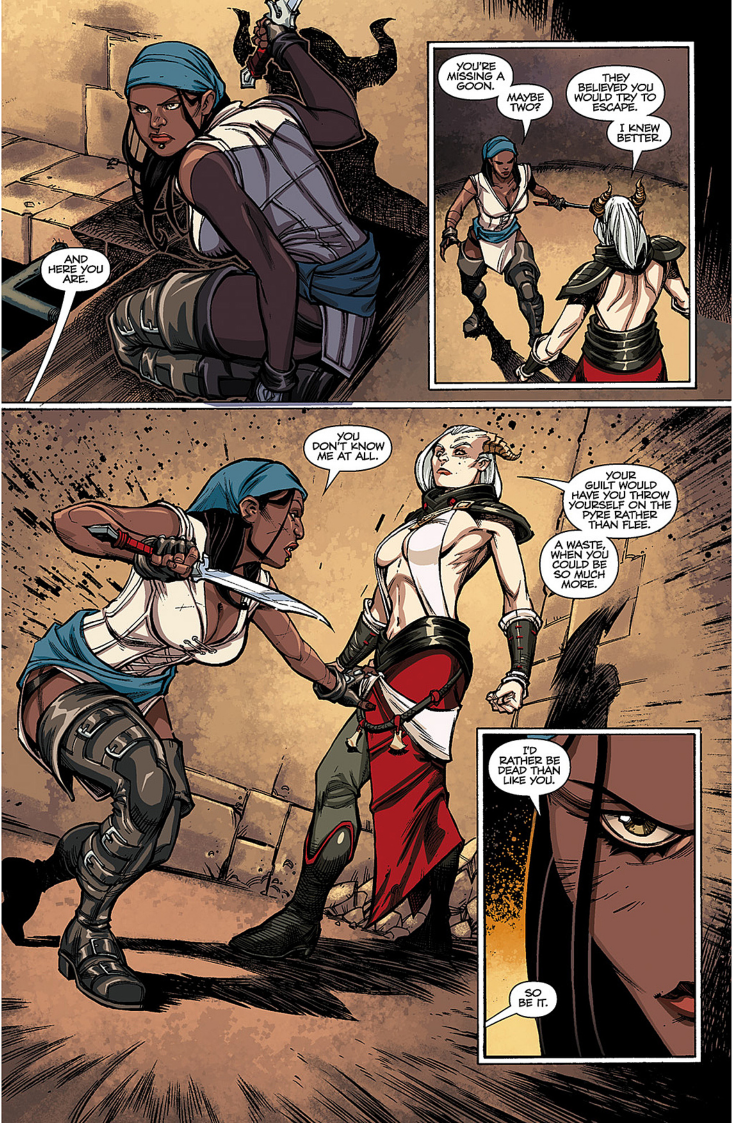

MAKER'S BURSTING BLACKHEADS!
DON'T YOU HAVE AN AWFULLY NICE PRISON CELL?
HOW DID YOU --
BEAT UP A PRIESTESS.
--FIND US, I WAS GOING TO SAY.
YOURS WAS THE BUILDING WHERE THEY SENT REINFORCEMENTS.
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU.
YOU, TOO.
YOU THINKING US THREE SHOULD MAKE A RUN FOR IT?
I DON'T KNOW, RIVAINI...
BETTER THAN WAITING ON THE QUNARI.
UNLESS YOU'D RATHER A FATE BASED ON WHAT THE HOLY QUN SAYS ABOUT THE COLOR OF YOUR PISS?
POINT TAKEN.
MAKE SURE ALISTAIR GETS OUT.
YOU UNDERSTAND?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TO FIND MY CREW.
THEY CAN STAY OR DIE FIGHTING, BUT THEY DESERVE THE CHOICE.

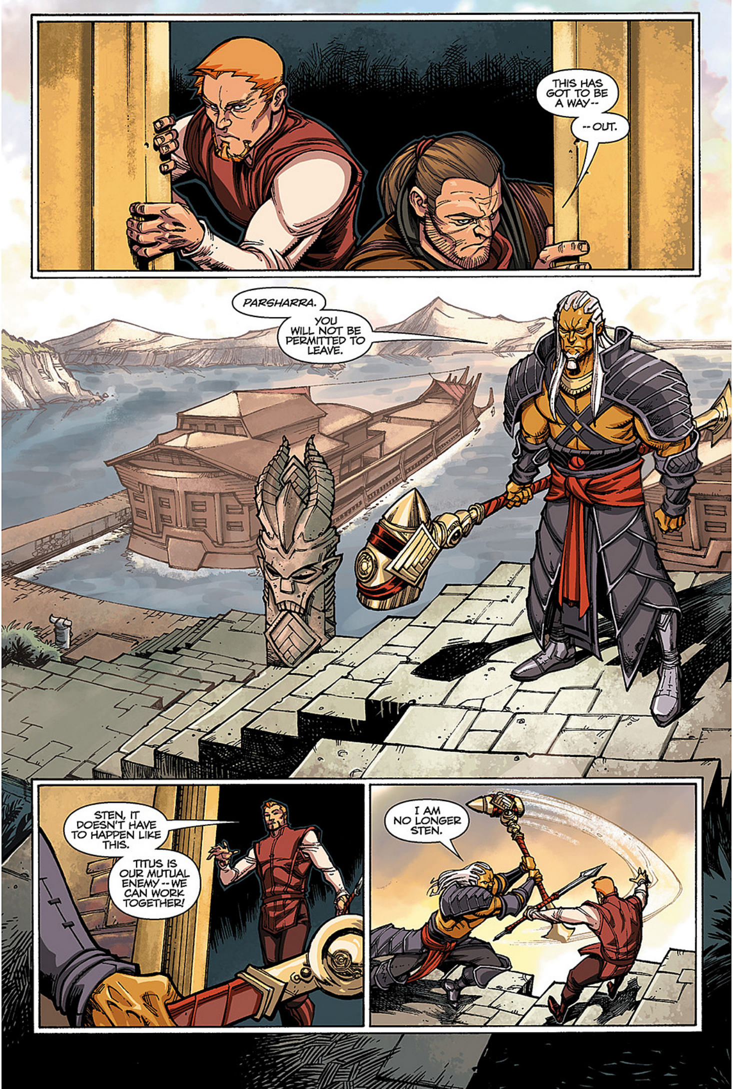

KLIK
I LOVE THAT SOUND.
PLACE IS A MAZE -- YOU THINK YOU'RE OUTSIDE AND THEN YOU'RE SURROUNDED BY WALLS.
EASY TO GET CORNERED IN THE BUILDINGS, BUT AT LEAST INDOORS YOU CAN HIDE.
CHIMNEYS? VENTILATION?
FINE FOR ME, BUT ALISTAIR WILL NEVER FIT.
SHE JUST CALLED ME FAT, DIDN'T SHE?
READY?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YOU LOOK...
JUST GET OUT SAFE.
AND IF WE DON'T SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN...GOOD LUCK.

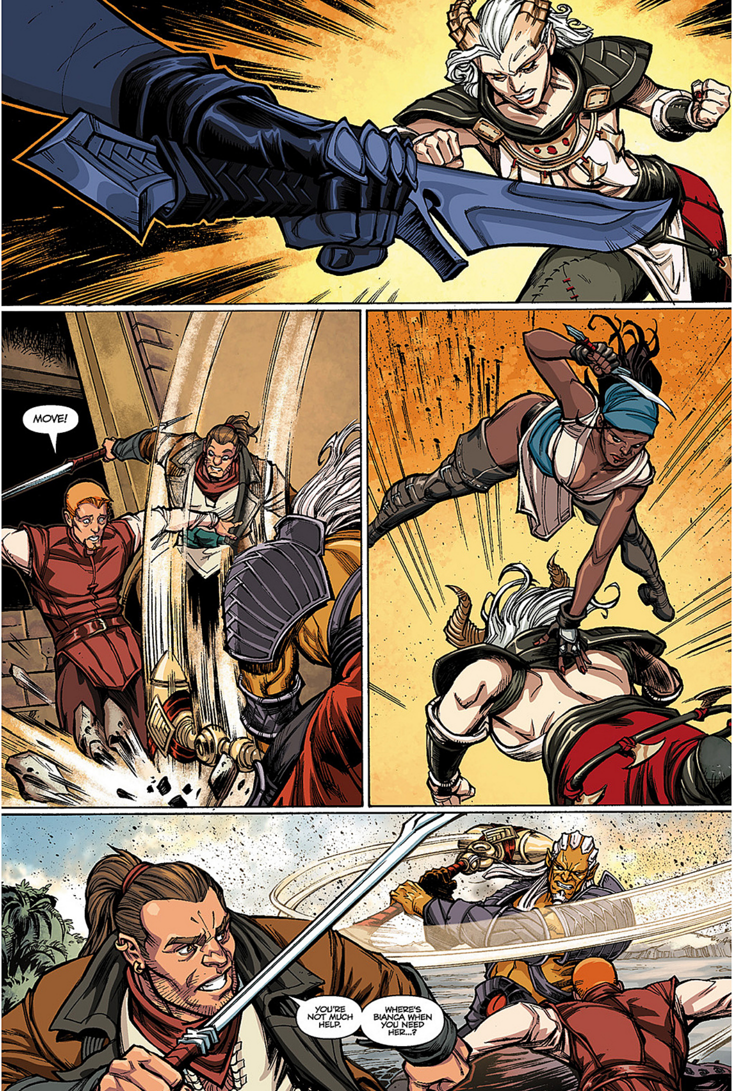

GO!
GO!
THIS IS HOW I ABANDON MY FRIENDS...
...FOR THE SAKE OF FLEA-RIDDEN BOTTOM FEEDERS WHO CAN BARELY HOIST A SAIL WITHOUT VOMITING UP LAST NIGHT'S WINE.
KEY?
KEY.
BUT TO WHICH DOOR?
ONE THING AT A TIME.

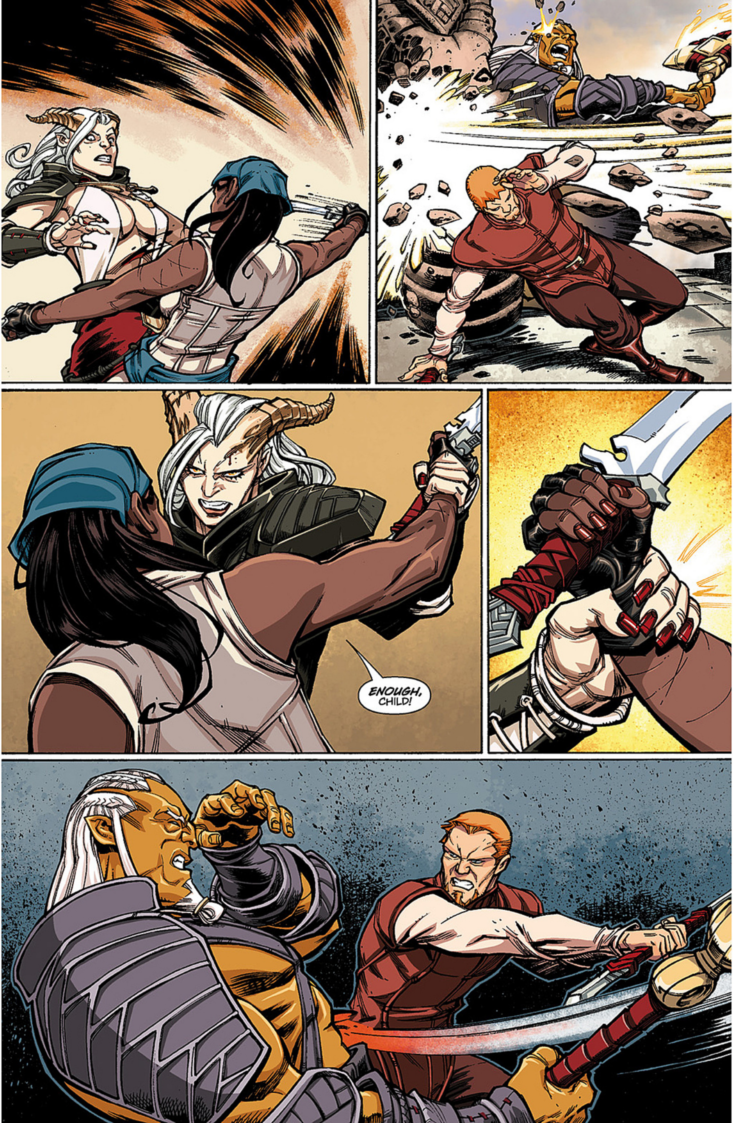

THEY'RE MY CREW, AND MY BLOODY RESPONSIBILITY.
ON THREE...
WHATEVER ELSE I AM, I'M A *DAMN* GOOD CAPTAIN.

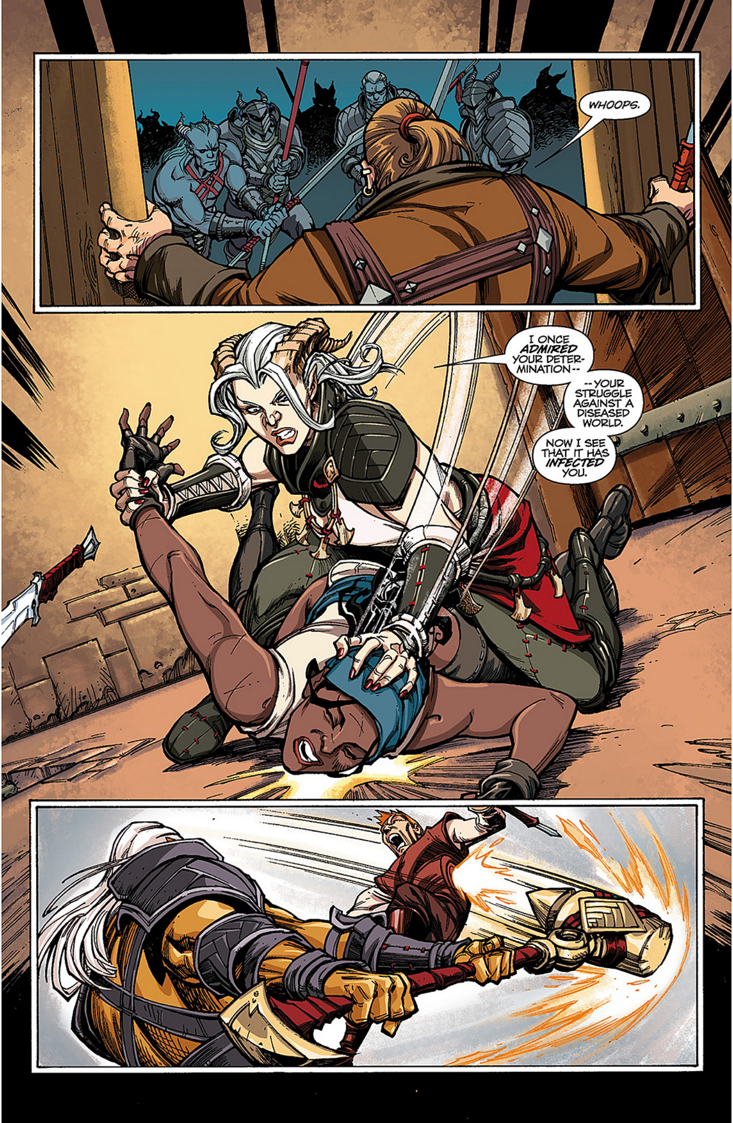

BRAND?
CAPTAIN?
ARE THE OTHERS WITH YOU?
MOST OF THEM -- WE'RE FOUR TO A CELL, BUT WE'VE BEEN TAPPING THE WALLS TO TALK.
LEANDRO WAS HOWLING FOR DAYS, UNTIL HE JUST... STOPPED.
IS THIS A RESCUE?
CLOSE ENOUGH.
I CAN GET YOU OUT, BUT THE QUNARI ARE PROBABLY GOING TO KILL US ALL.
I HEAR THEY GIVE THEIR CONVERTS A PRETTY LITTLE LIFE.
YOU SAID LIFE WITH THE QUNARI WASN'T WORTH A BARREL OF MAGGOT-RIDDEN OFFAL.
I SAY A LOT OF THINGS.
IT'S YOUR CALL.
GET US OUT.
WE'LL FIGHT TO THE END.
THAT'S MY BOY.

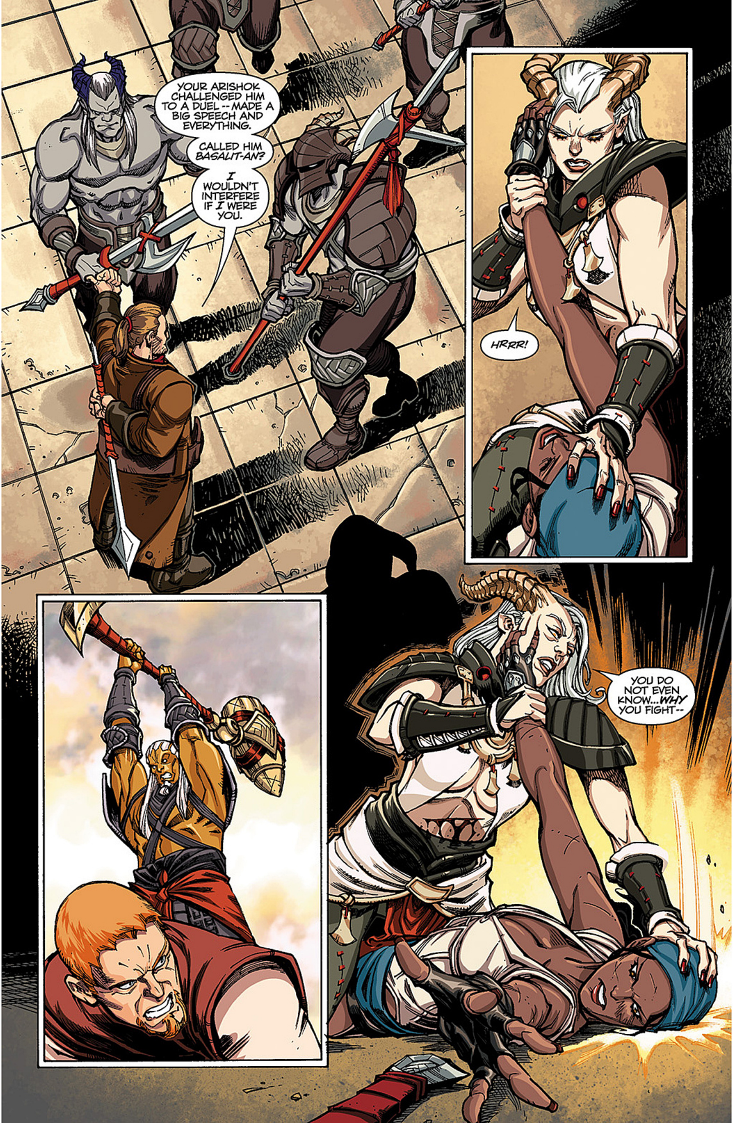

AND HERE YOU ARE.
YOU'RE MISSING A GOON.
MAYBE TWO?
THEY BELIEVED YOU WOULD TRY TO ESCAPE.
I KNEW BETTER.
YOU DON'T KNOW ME AT ALL.
YOUR GUILT WOULD HAVE YOU THROW YOURSELF ON THE PYRE RATHER THAN FLEE.
A WASTE, WHEN YOU COULD BE SO MUCH MORE.
I'D RATHER BE DEAD THAN LIKE YOU.
SO BE IT.

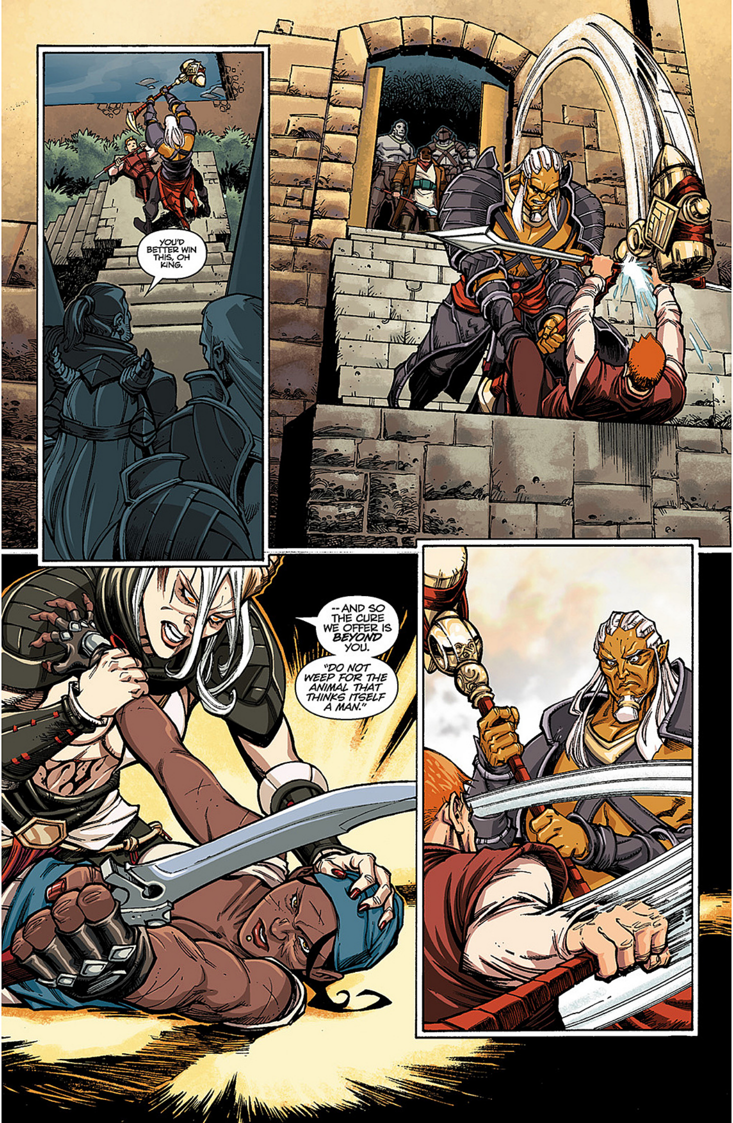

THIS HAS GOT TO BE A WAY--
--OUT.
PARSHARRA.
YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE.
STEN, IT DOESN'T HAVE TO HAPPEN LIKE THIS.
TITUS IS OUR MUTUAL ENEMY--WE CAN WORK TOGETHER!
I AM NO LONGER STEN.

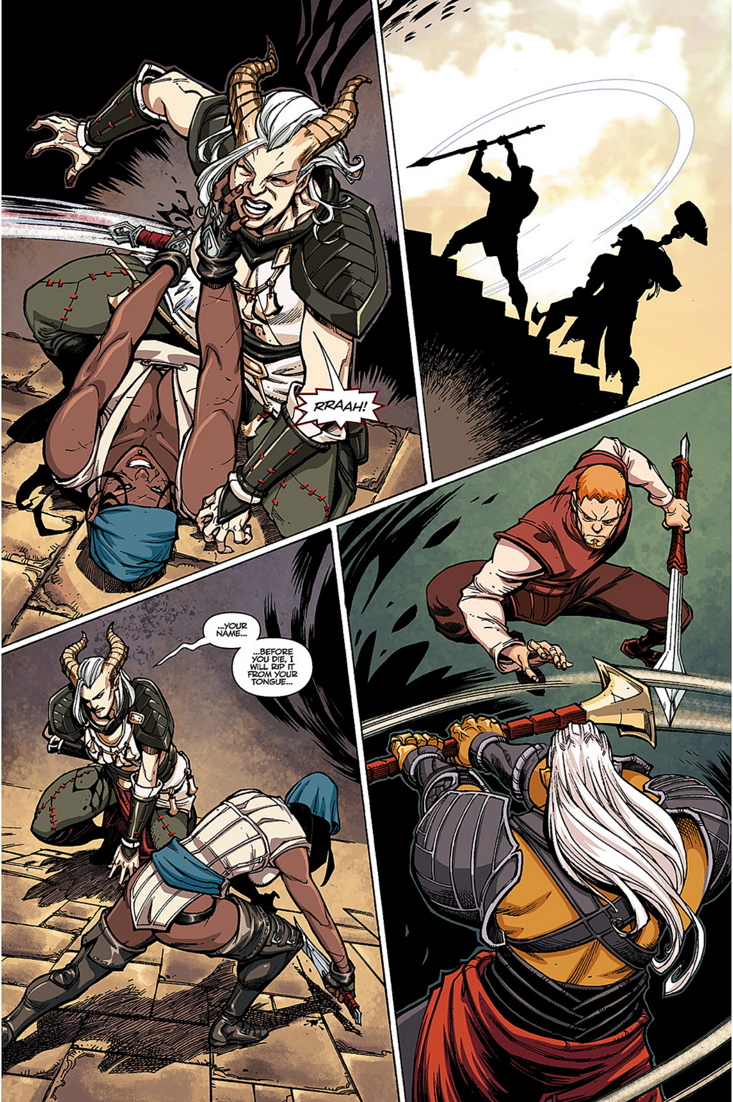

MOVE!
YOU'RE NOT MUCH HELP.
WHERE'S BIANCA WHEN YOU NEED HER...?

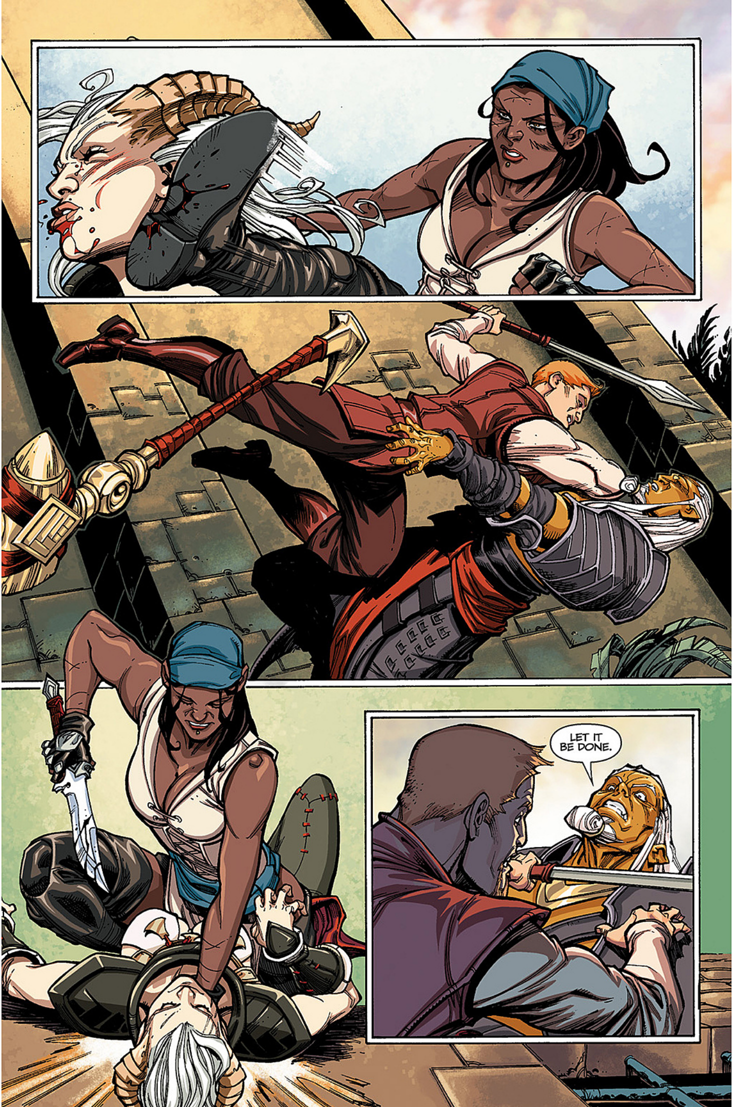

ENOUGH, CHILD!

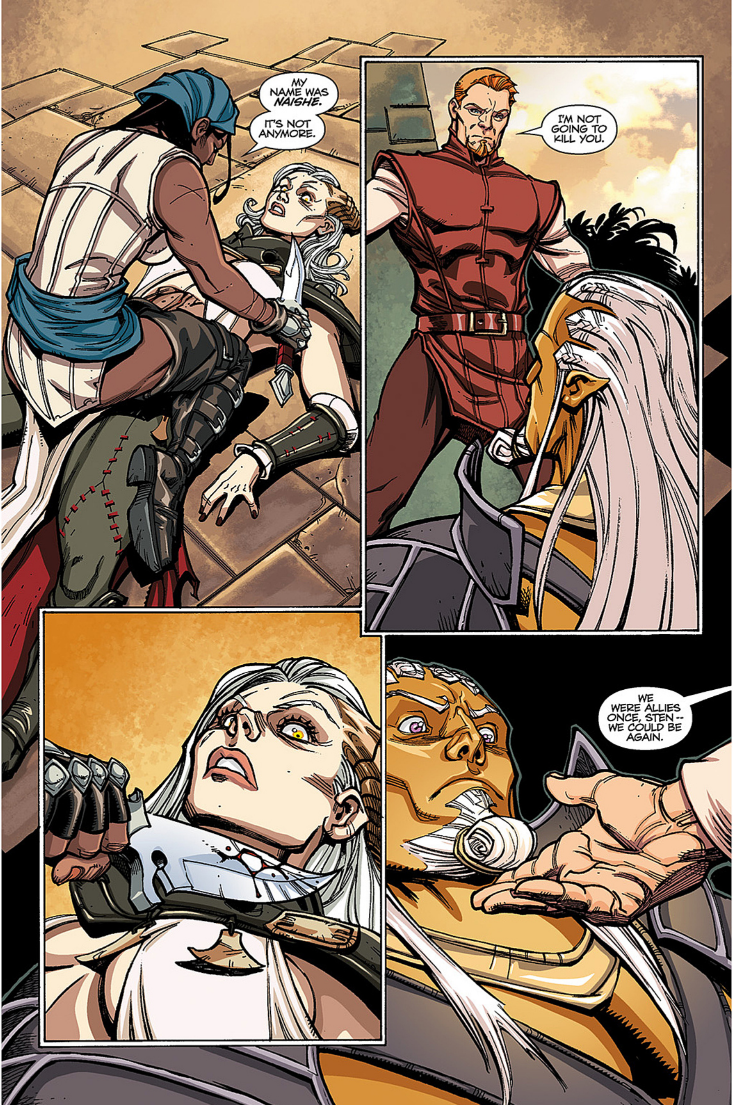

WHOOPS.
I ONCE *ADMIRED* YOUR DETERMINATION--
--YOUR STRUGGLE AGAINST A DISEASED WORLD.
NOW I SEE THAT IT HAS *INFECTED* YOU.

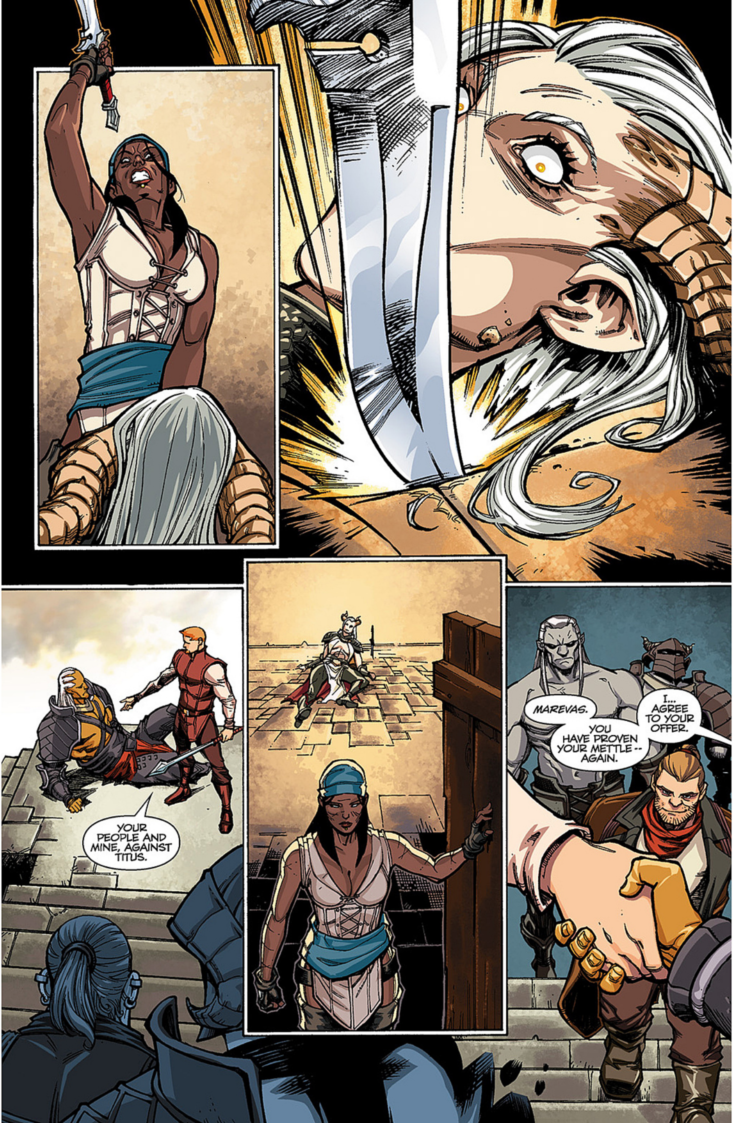

YOUR ARISHOK CHALLENGED HIM TO A DUEL --MADE A BIG SPEECH AND EVERYTHING.
CALLED HIM *BASALIT-AN*?
I WOULDN'T INTERFERE IF *I* WERE YOU.
HRRR!
YOU DO NOT EVEN KNOW...***WHY*** YOU FIGHT--

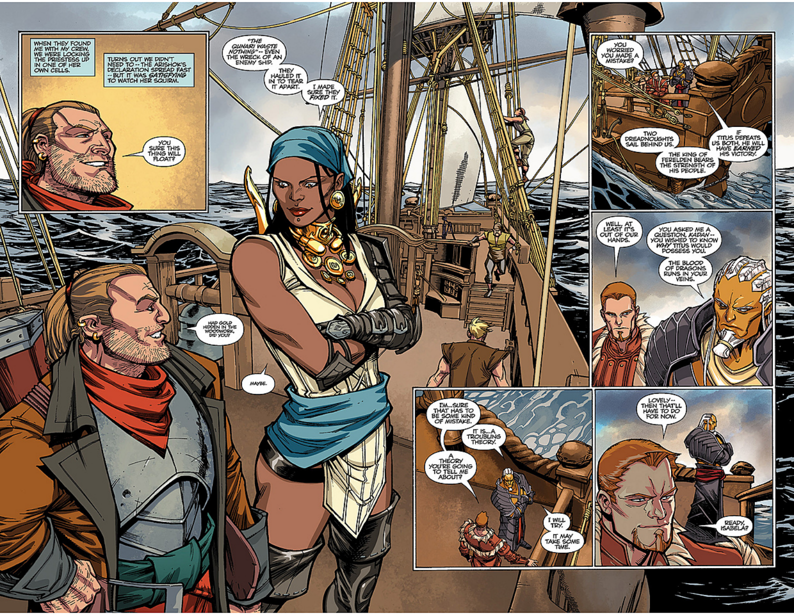

YOU'D BETTER WIN THIS, OH KING.
--AND SO THE CURE WE OFFER IS *BEYOND* YOU.
"DO NOT WEEP FOR THE ANIMAL THAT THINKS ITSELF A MAN."

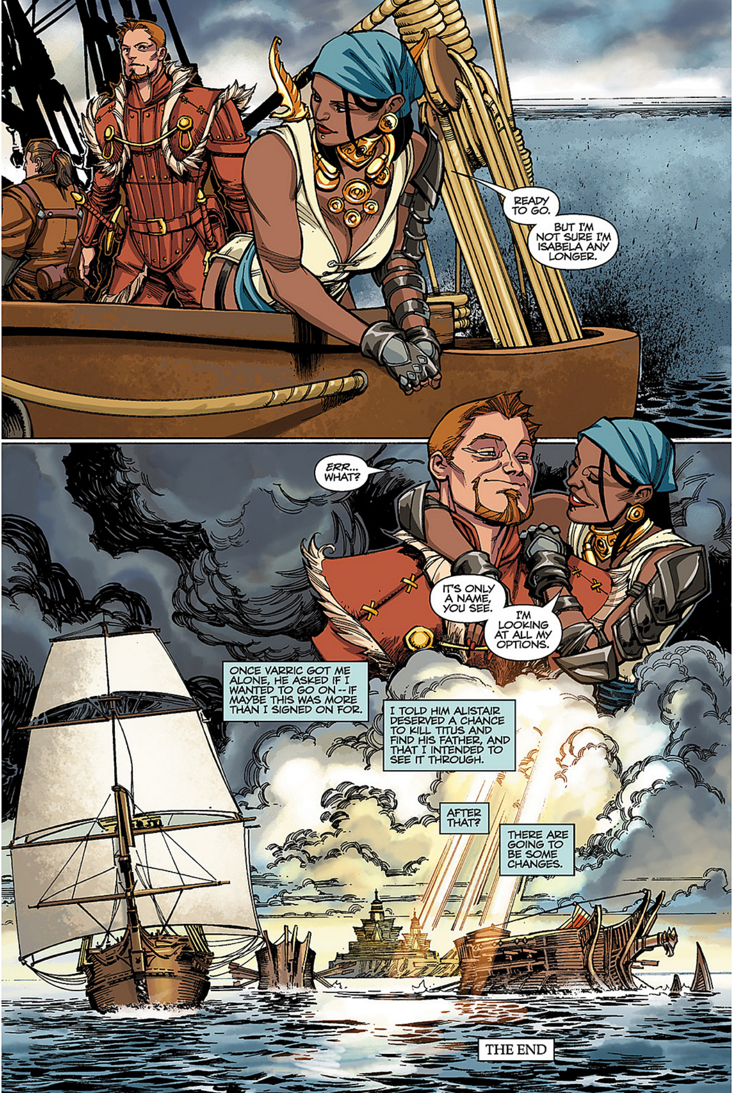

RRAAH!
...YOUR NAME...
...BEFORE YOU DIE, I WILL RIP IT FROM YOUR TONGUE...


LET IT BE DONE.


MY NAME WAS *NAISHE.*
IT'S NOT ANYMORE.
I'M NOT GOING TO KILL YOU.
WE WERE ALLIES ONCE, STEN -- WE COULD BE AGAIN.


YOUR PEOPLE AND MINE, AGAINST TITUS.
MAREVAS.
YOU HAVE PROVEN YOUR METTLE -- AGAIN.
I... AGREE TO YOUR OFFER.


WHEN THEY FOUND ME WITH MY CREW, WE WERE LOCKING THE PRIESTESS UP IN ONE OF HER OWN CELLS.
TURNS OUT WE DIDN'T NEED TO -- THE ARISHOK'S DECLARATION SPREAD FAST -- BUT IT WAS *SATISFYING* TO WATCH HER SQUIRM.
YOU SURE THIS THING WILL FLOAT?
"THE QUNARI WASTE NOTHING" -- EVEN THE WRECK OF AN ENEMY SHIP.
THEY HAULED IT IN TO TEAR IT APART.
I MADE SURE THEY *FIXED* IT.
HAD GOLD HIDDEN IN THE WOODWORK, DID YOU?
MAYBE.
YOU WORRIED YOU MADE A MISTAKE?
TWO DREADNOUGHTS SAIL BEHIND US.
THE KING OF FERELDEN BEARS THE STRENGTH OF HIS PEOPLE.
IF TITUS DEFEATS US BOTH, HE WILL HAVE *EARNED* HIS VICTORY.
WELL, AT LEAST IT'S OUT OF OUR HANDS.
YOU ASKED ME A QUESTION, *KADAN* -- YOU WISHED TO KNOW *WHY* TITUS WOULD POSSESS YOU.
THE BLOOD OF DRAGONS RUNS IN YOUR VEINS.
I'M...SURE THAT HAS TO BE SOME KIND OF MISTAKE.
IT IS...A TROUBLING THEORY.
A THEORY YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME ABOUT?
I WILL TRY.
IT MAY TAKE SOME TIME.
LOVELY -- THEN THAT'LL HAVE TO DO FOR NOW.
READY, ISABELA?


READY TO GO.
BUT I'M NOT SURE I'M ISABELA ANY LONGER.
ERR... WHAT?
IT'S ONLY A NAME, YOU SEE.
I'M LOOKING AT ALL MY OPTIONS.
ONCE VARRIC GOT ME ALONE, HE ASKED IF I WANTED TO GO ON -- IF MAYBE THIS WAS MORE THAN I SIGNED ON FOR.
I TOLD HIM ALISTAIR DESERVED A CHANCE TO KILL TITUS AND FIND HIS FATHER, AND THAT I INTENDED TO SEE IT THROUGH.
AFTER THAT?
THERE ARE GOING TO BE SOME CHANGES.
THE END